

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/SOV, MCCALL; EUR/EX FOR BOFINGER; A/FBO

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TAGS: AFSP ABLD ASEC UR US

SUBJECT: KIEV: STRELETSKAYA BUILDINGS

1 SUMMARY: IN MEETINGS WITH KIEV AND UKRAINIAN
OFFICIALS DEC 13, 14, SOV DEPDIRECTOR MCCALL
PRESSED HARD FOR SHORTENING FO 24-MONTH TERM OF
RECONSTRUCTION FOR STRELETSKAYA BUILDINGS. WHILE
SOVIETS WOULD NOT BUDGE FROM 24-MONTH CONTRACT
PERIOD, THEY DID PROMISE TO SHORTEN TERM BY 4 TO
6 MONTHS AFTER SIGNING OF CONTRACT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING HIS VISIT MCCALL, ACCOMPANIED BY
PORTER, MET WITH KIEV FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR N.V.
LAVRUKHIN AND ACTING UKRAINIAN FONMIN V.A. KRAVETZ.

3. DISCUSSION WITH LAVRUKHIN WAS INTENDED AND
INCLUDED REHEARSAL OF BOTH SIDES' VIEWS ON LACK
OF PROGRESS. MCCALL EMPHASIZED STATEMENT OF KIEV
MAYOR V.A. GUSEV TO DEPASSISTANT SECY LUERS
THAT U.S. "WOULD BE SURPRISED BY SPEED WITH
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WHICH RECONSTRUCTION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT
STRELETSKAYA." HE CALLED 4-MONTH CUT IN TERM,
RECENTLY PROPOSED BY CITY, VERY SMALL SURPRISE
AND FIRMLY REITERATED NEED FOR MUCH FASTER
COMPLETION.

4. LAVRUKHIN THEN OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT CITY

WOULD MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SHORTEN TERM FOLLOWING CONTRACT SIGNING. HE EXPLAINED THAT CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION CANNOT LEGALLY CALCULATE COSTS OF PROJECT (AND PRESUMABLY TIME NEEDED) UNTIL AFTER CONTRACT SIGNING.

5. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, MCCALL PRESSED LAVRUKHIN FOR SPECIFIC COMMITMENT ON SHORTENED TERMS. LAVRUKHIN RESPONDED WITH "PROMISE" IN MAYOR'S NAME THAT TERM WOULD BE SHORTENED BY "FOUR TO SIX MONTHS" AFTER SIGNING OF CONTRACT, WHICH WOULD STILL INCLUDE 24-MONTH PERIOD, THE TOTAL CONSTRUCTION TIME WOULD THUS BE 18-20 MONTHS FROM THE CONTRACT SIGNING. LAVRUKHIN ALSO GAVE ASSURANCES CITY WISHES CONSULATE TO BE OPENED ASAP AND ASKED THAT CONTRZCT BE SIGNED SOONEST.

6. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH KRAVETZ, MCCALL ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF LAVRUKHIN'S ASSURANCES. AFTER SOME HESITANCY, KRAVETZ ENDED MEETING BY EXPRESSING MINISTRY'S AND UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT'S ENTIRE SUPPORT FOR CITY'S COMMITMENT. HE ASSURED MINISTRY "WOULD MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT" AND "DO ALL IN ITS POWER" TO SPEED WORK AT STRELETSKAYA. HE SPECIFICALLY STATED MINISTRY WOULD MAKE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL WORKERS, EQUIPMENT, SPEDIALISTS AND MATERIALS AS NEEDED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINISH RECONSTRUCTION SPEEDILY AND WITH APPROPRIATE HIGH QUALITY OF WORK. FINALLY, KRAVETZ CONFIRMED THAT QUICK SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT WOULD MEAN THAT STRELETSKAYA WORK WOULD BE FINISHED IN "MID-1979".

7. IN MEETING WITH MCCALL, LAVRUKHIN ALSO PROTESTED DECEMBER 2 NYTIMES ARTICLE CITING DELAYS IN KIEV AND DIFFICULT WORKING CONDITIONS. MCCALL SAID NEITHER HE NOR PORTER AGREED WITH STATEMENTS. TEST OF LAVRUKHIN STATEMENT SEPTTEL.

8. COMMENT: LUERS-GUSEV CONVERSATION AND MCCALL FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO KIEV HAVE ENABLED US TO ACHIEVE WHAT ALL FEEL IS A SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT FROM KIEV CITY OFFICIALS. A FOUR TO SIX MONTH CUT WRITTEN INTO CONTRACT WOULD BE BETTER, BUT NOT SIGNIFICANTLY SO, AND IN OUR VIEW IS NOT POSSIBLE. THE PRESENT COMMITMENT DOES GIVE US THE LEVERAGE WE MIGHT NEED AT LATER TIME AND UNDOUBTEDLY IS RESULT OF GUSEV OVERRIDING LAVRUKHIN'S "FINAL OFFER" OF 24 MONTHS. KEEPING THAT PERIOD IN THE

CONTRACT PRESERVES FACE FOR LATTER AND IS THUS
USEFUL IN OUR CONTINUING RELATIONS WITH HIM. TOON

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